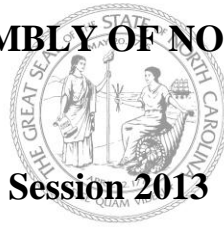


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



FISCAL ANALYSIS MEMORANDUM

[This confidential fiscal memorandum is a fiscal analysis of a draft bill, amendment, committee substitute, or conference committee report that has not been formally introduced or adopted on the chamber floor or in committee. **This is not an official fiscal note.** If upon introduction of the bill you determine that a formal fiscal note is needed, please make a fiscal note request to the Fiscal Research Division, and one will be provided under the rules of the House and the Senate.]

DATE: July 16, 2013
TO: Senate Finance Chairs
FROM: Jennifer Hoffmann, Fiscal Research Division
RE: HB 936, Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund

FISCAL IMPACT (\$ in millions)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available		
State Impact	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
General Fund Revenues:					
General Fund Expenditures:					
Special Fund Revenues:					
Special Fund Expenditures:					
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	No estimate available. Please see Assumptions & Methodology section for additional details.				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Wildlife Resources Commission and Environment and Natural Resources					
EFFECTIVE DATE: Reward Fund effective July 1, 2013. Special conditions of probation effective December 1, 2013.					
TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None					

BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 936 establishes a Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund to be used to pay rewards to individuals who provide information to law enforcement authorities resulting in the arrest and conviction of persons who commit serious wildlife violations. It also amends an existing law to allow a court to require the offender to compensate the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for any reward paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the offender. This compensation is in addition to the existing law that allows judges to require repayment to WRC or DENR for replacement and investigative costs.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The amount of money deposited in and paid from the Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund is dependent on the following factors:

- 1) The number of individuals who provide information to law enforcement authorities that result in the arrest and conviction of a serious wildlife offender;
- 2) The number of offenders convicted of serious wildlife violations who the court requires to compensate the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) for any reward paid for information that led to their arrest and conviction; and
- 3) A percentage of the replacement and investigative costs paid annually to the WRC as a special condition of probation. The bill directs the WRC to set the percentage at an amount not less than 10%.

At this time, none of these factors are known so a fiscal estimate cannot be reasonably determined. Based on its experience, the Wildlife Resources Commission estimates that there are approximately 500 serious wildlife violations annually. These cases have resulted in approximately \$65,000 in replacement and investigative costs paid as compensation to WRC in each of the past three years. However, the amount of funds received as compensation for replacement and investigative costs to be deposited in the Reward Fund is unknown as the bill allows the WRC to set the percentage to be used to pay rewards. In addition, most of the previous cases have been “made” by WRC’s enforcement staff, so it is not known in how many of the future cases that the WRC would need to offer a reward in order to gain a conviction.

SOURCES OF DATA: Wildlife Resources Commission

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None